(c) No, Sir.

Taking over of Jagigopa Paper Mill in Assam

507. SHRI JERLIE E. TARIANG:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Jagigopa Paper Mill in Assam has been closed for a number of years;

(b) whether the same has been included in the list of sick mills; and

(c) whether Government propose to take over the mill or allow it to be taken over by private sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (c) The Jagigopa (Assam) Unit of Ashok Paper Mills is lying closed since March, 1983. The Central Government has no proposal to take over the management of the unit under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. However, the State Government/Financial Institutions have been making efforts to rehabilitate the unit with a view to resuming its operations

Issue of duplicate LPG Pressure Regulators

508. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that M|s. Raja Gas Agencies Lawrence Road, Delhi have been issuing duplicate pressure regulators to its consumers; if so, the number of the complaint during the past six months in this regard;

(b) whether it is also a fact that complaints in this regard have been lodged with Bharat Petroleum, Luxmi Building, Connaught Place, New Delhi; if so, the details in this regard and the action taken thereon; and

(c) what remedial steps have been taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) No such instance has come to the notice of Government.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Production of essential bulk drugs

509. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the production of essential bulk drugs declined considerably in 1984-85 compared to its production during the year 1983-84;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the extent of gap between demand and supply of these drugs as a result of fall in the production; and

(d) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (d) Value of production of bulk drugs, at constant 1979-80 prices had increased from Rs. 355 crores in 1983-84 to Rs. 377 crores (estimated) in 1984-85. Similarly value of production of formulations at constant 1979-80 prices

had increased from Rs. 1760 crores in 1983-84 to Rs. 1827 crores in 1984-85. This Ministry monitors the production of 87 essential bulk drugs which account for 80 per cent of the total production of bulk drugs in the country. In comparison with the year 1983-84, production of 61 bulk drugs registered an increase ranging from 2.3 per cent to 186.6 per cent in 1984-85. Decrease in production was less than 10 per cent in respect of 7 drugs. Production of other bulk drugs has been less because of various reasons including production being tailored to demand, drug obsolescence production problems, etc. The gap between demand and indigenous production was met by imports which are regulated under the Import and Export Policy.

Fertilizers companies in Joint Sector

510. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up four new fertilizer companies in the joint sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) There is no proposal by the Central Government to set up new fertilizer companies in the joint sector.

(b) Does not arise.

Electoral Reforms

511. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 8 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 29th April, 1985 and state:

(a) whether Government have recently received any report from the Election Commission making a number of recommendations to cleanse the electoral process of malpractices; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASOKE KUMAR SEN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Taking into account the experience gained during the elections to Lok Sabha held in December last and to State Assemblies in March this year, the Commission has taken stock of the situation and its fresh recommendations are contained in the Second Annual Report (pages 77-84) which was laid on the Table of the House on the 13th May, 1985. Some of the more important recommendations made by the Election Commission are detailed in the attached statement.

Statement

Proposals for Electoral Reforms

(1) *Elimination of non-serious candidates:*

(a) Security deposit may be raised ten times.

(b) A candidate who fails to secure 20 per cent of the valid votes polled may be disqualified.

(c) The minimum number of votes required for refund of security deposit may be increased from one-sixth to one-fourth.

(d) The facilities like priority allotment of telephone connection immunity from requisition of vehicles, subsidised supply of paper for printing posters, etc. will not be available to independent candidates.

(e) Part of the election expenses of candidates sponsored by recognised political parties may be met by the Government in kind through supply of free electoral rolls, subsidization of time bought on AIR/TV according to agreed norms etc.